

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00294 141740Z

73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 141610Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2171

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS ATHENS 0294

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, GR

SUBJECT: NEW GREEK ARCHBISHOP SERAPHIM

REF: ATHENS 0260

1. PRESIDENT PHAEDON GHIZIKIS SELECTED BISHOP SERAPHIM OF IOANNINA ARCHBISHOP OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ON JANUARY 12 PURSUANT TO RECOMMENDATION OF SPECIAL SYNOD. SERAPHIM WILL BE INSTALLED JANUARY 16 IN TRADITIONAL CEREMONY AT ATHENS CATHEDRAL. WHILE SERAPHIM RECEIVED OVERWEHLING MAJORITY OF VOTES IN SPECIAL SYNOD AND WAS REGARDED BY GREEK PUBLIC AS FAVORITE CANDIDATE, FACT THAT ABOUT ONE-HALF OF TOTAL REIGNING BISHOPS WERE BARRED FROM VOTING BY CONSTITUENT ACT HAS REPORTEDLY PROVOKED FURTHER DISCORD IN CHURCH. BEFORE VOTING, SPOKESMAN FOR EXCLUDED BISHOPS SAID THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT NEW PRIMATE.

2. NEW ARCHBISHOP HAS GOOD REPUTATION AS ADMINISTRATOR AND PROVIDED FOR HIS FLOCK DURING TENURE AS IOANNINA  
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BISHOP AND IS CONSIDERED HARMONIZER WITHIN CHURCH. HE IS

61 YEARS OLD AND ON GOOD TERMS WITH PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS AND OTHERS OF NEW GOVERNMENT AS EVIDENCED BY HIS ADMINISTERING OATH TO NEW OFFICIALS ON NOVEMBER 25. AS PRESS REPORTED EARLIER, ARCHBISHOP SERAPHIM FOUGHT IN THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT UNDER GENERAL ZERVAS IN EARLY 1940'S WITH PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS AND BRIG. GENERAL D. IOANNIDES.

3. GREEK PATRIARCH DEMETRIOS' EXCEPTIONALLY WARM MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS WAS CARRIED WIDELY IN GREEK NEWS MEDIA.  
TASCA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ATHENS00294  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW GREEK ARCHBISHOP SERAPHIM  
**TAGS:** SOCI, GR, (SERAPHIM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005